

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claim 1 has been objected to as containing a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended so as to correct this error. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagata (US 5,951,833). Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Toyokura (JP 03-242919). Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Sekine (US 5,660,744).

Claim 13 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to include the limitation of claim 13 which, as mentioned above, is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. As a result, claim 1 is now allowable.

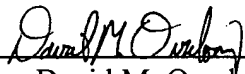
Further, claims 9 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

In addition, claims 2-8 and 10-12 are also allowable as being either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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